

lished. The specimens producing the seeds described are, the writer thinks, a variety of *N. odorata*, contrary to the opinion of Mr. Warder, who inclines to think them *N. tuberosa*. The flowers are large for *N. odorata*, less odorous, and the leaves of some of them are raised above the water's surface like the older leaves of *Nelumbium*, but the seeds are oblong, and raised on a stipe within the arillus which is much longer than the seed; while in *N. tuberosa* the arillus is shorter, the seed round and not stipitate.

These observations have been mostly made by Dr. Warder and his son, by whose request they are placed on record by

DAVIS L. JAMES.

Scales of *Thuja gigantea* 3-ovuled—I have long known that the scales of *Thuja gigantea*, Nutt., were three-ovuled and usually three-seeded, but do not see it noted in any of the books I have examined. The seeds are imbricate, that is, the wings of the two outside ones overlap the inner one. I see no difference in the wings, both sides being alike in all I have examined.

The genus *Thuja* as laid down in the botany of California will have to be amended to include this species as it grows in this vicinity.

Another thing I have not seen noted; it annually sheds, not only its leaves, but its branchlets. These turn yellow in the fall and drop off in a few weeks.—THOMAS HOWELL, *Sauvies Island, Oregon*.

Plants of North-Western Australia, enumerated by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.—This folio pamphlet of twenty pages comes from a strange country with a list of still stranger plants. The north-western part of Australia had never been explored botanically before 1861, at which time about 120 species were recorded. The present list is made from a collection of Mr. John Forrest while engaged in a trigonometrical survey of the Nickol Bay District during the year 1878. "Among the plants given as of more than ordinary interest are the real Caper-plant (*Capparis spinosa*), not specifically distinct from the Mediterranean typical plant; the Strychnia-bush (*Strychnos nuxvomica*); the ordinary Haricot Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*); *Hibiscus Goldsworthii* a highly ornamental shrub; *Eremophila Fraseri*, a bush of showy splendor; the *Decazesia* (a new genus of *Compositæ*), an elegant everlasting, the glorious Marie Palm (*Livistona Marie*), the only palm as yet known from the west coast of Australia, restricted there seemingly to a solitary locality."

"Strange, however, is the almost total absence of ferns, only *Acrostichum aureum* representing that otherwise large and lovely order among about 400 species of plants now gradually accumulated in collections from the district."

The arrangement of orders is most bewildering to the American botanist, doing violence to all his ideas of system. Apetalous, monopetalous and polypetalous orders are to be found mixed in every way. It also looks queer to see the genus *Andropogon* among the *Amarantaceæ*, as well as among Grasses. The country is a great one, though, and many a rich harvest of plants is waiting to be reaped.